Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting at Col. 4, line 32 with the following amended paragraph:

The authentication, authorization and accounting (AAA) service performs user authentication, user authorization and user accounting functions. It may be a Cisco [[ACSTM produce]] ACS™ product such as Cisco Secure™, available from Cisco Systems, Inc. of San Jose, Calif., or an equivalent product. In accordance with a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, the Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) protocol is used as the communication protocol between the gateway and the AAA and GRS proxy services. RADIUS is an Internet standard track protocol for carrying authentication, authorization, accounting and configuration information between devices that desire to authenticate their links and a shared AAA or GRS service. Those of ordinary skill in the art will now realize that systems, methods and apparatuses may employ other Internet protocols such as TACACS+ [[can be used]] as acceptable authentication communications links between the various communications devices that encompass the data communications network and still be within the inventive concepts disclosed herein. The global roaming service (GRS) is also [[a]] an AAA service which is capable of proxying transactions to remote AAA [[service]] services. It also preferably uses the RADIUS protocol or an equivalent.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Col. 8, line 8 with the following paragraph:

The NCC 12 publishes "start" events that are subscribed to by a control adapter such as control adapter 29 associated with a host computer at a node to cause the control adapter to start up one

or more specific services. Since the control adapter is always responsible for starting a service, the start events are always subscribed to by the control adapters as opposed to the service adapters. An example of the information contained within a start event includes the GUID of the publisher, the GUID of the subscribing control adapter, the GUID of the service to be started, the service name and the absolute path where the service binary resides. The access database adapter 20 of the NCC 12 also publishes "stop" events that are subscribed to by the control adapter to cause the control adapter to shut down a specific service or multiple services. Since the control adapter is always responsible for stopping a service, the stop events are always subscribed to by the control adapter as opposed to the service adapters. Once the control adapter receives the stop event, it publishes a stop event to the service adapter of the corresponding service. The control adapter allows the service sufficient time to shut down. If the service does not respond to the stop event and [[continues running]] continues running, the control adapter can explicitly kill the service based on the process ID found in the configuration file. An example of information contained within a start event includes the GUID of the publisher, the GUID of the subscribing control adapter, the GUID of the service to be stopped and the name of the service to be stopped.